

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Tatsuhiko EMA et al. ) Parent Group Art Unit: 1762  
)  
1.53(b) Divisional of ) Parent Examiner: K. Jolley  
Application No.: 09/961,288, )  
filed on September 25, 2001 )  
)  
Filed: Herewith )  
)  
For: FILM-FORMING METHOD, FILM- )  
FORMING APPARATUS AND )  
LIQUID FILM DRYING )  
APPARATUS )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Office the documents listed on the attached PTO form 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed together with the above-referenced Divisional application.

Copies of the listed documents were previously submitted in prior application, Application No. 09/961,288, filed September 25, 2001, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120, or cited by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Office applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 17, 2003

By: 

Qingyu Yin\*

\*With limited recognition under 37 C.F.R. §10.9(b).

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	04329.2677-01	Appln. No.	NEW
Applicants	Tatsuhiko EMA et al.		
Filing Date	Herewith	Group:	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial*		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
		5,803,970	09/1998	Tateyama et al.			
		5,952,050	09/1999	Doan			
		5,965,200	10/1999	Tateyama et al.			
		6,062,288	05/2000	Tateyama			
		6,063,190	05/2000	Hasebe et al.			
		6,092,937	07/2000	Snodgrass et al.			
		6,120,834	09/19/00	Terauchi			
		6,410,080	06/2002	Ito			
		6,416,583	07/2002	Kitano			
		6,506,453	01/2003	Ema et al.			
		6,579,382	06/2000	Ito			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
		4-302414	10/26/92	Japan			No
		7-185450	07/25/95	Japan			No
		10-137667	05/26/98	Japan			No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	People's Republic of China Office Action dated September 5, 2003, and English translation thereof

Examiner	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce